AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An animal cell *in vitro* expressing a ligand-responsive transcription control factor and stably transformed with a DNA comprising in a molecule, both of the following polynucleotides (a) and (b):

(a) a polynucleotide comprising a reporter protein coding region connected functionally downstream from a transcription control region, wherein said transcription control region

(a-1) substantially consists of a recognition sequence of said ligand-responsive transcription control factor and a minimum promoter comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 5 which can function in said cell, and

(a-2) contains no functional elements relating to transcription control in said cell other than the recognition sequence and the minimum promoter; and

(b) a polynucleotide comprising a selective marker protein coding region connected functionally downstream of a promoter which can function in said cell, wherein said selective marker protein is a protein which can provide the cell with a resistance against chemicals suppressing or disturbing proliferation of the cell;

wherein said ligand-responsive transcription control factor is one selected from among an aryl hydrocarbon receptor, estrogen receptor, androgen receptor ~~or~~ and thyroid hormone receptor.

2-3. (Cancelled).

4. (Previously Presented) The cell according to claim 1, wherein said ligand-responsive transcription control factor is an aryl hydrocarbon receptor.

5. (Cancelled).

6. (Original) The cell according to claim 1, wherein said ligand-responsive transcription control factor is an estrogen receptor.

7. (Original) The cell according to claim 1, wherein said ligand-responsive transcription control factor is an androgen receptor.

8. (Original) The cell according to claim 1, wherein said ligand-responsive transcription control factor is a thyroid hormone receptor.

9. (Currently Amended) An animal cell *in vitro* expressing an aryl hydrocarbon receptor and an Arnt receptor, and stably transformed with a DNA comprising in a molecule, both of the following polynucleotides (a) and (b):

(a) a polynucleotide comprising a reporter protein coding region connected functionally downstream from a transcription control region, wherein said transcription control region

(a-1) substantially consists of a recognition sequence of said aryl hydrocarbon receptor and a minimum promoter comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 5 which can function in said cell, and

(a-2) contains no functional elements relating to transcription control in said cell other than the recognition sequence and the minimum promoter; and

(b) a polynucleotide comprising a selective marker protein coding region connected functionally downstream of a promoter which can function in said cell, wherein said selective marker protein is a protein which can provide the cell with a resistance against chemicals suppressing or disturbing proliferation of the cell.

10. (Cancelled).

11. (Currently Amended) A method for evaluating a chemical substance to have agonist activity over the transcription promoting ability of a ligand-responsive transcription control factor, said method comprising:

(i) culturing an animal cell according to any one of claims 1, 4 and 6 to 9 in the presence of the chemical substance;

(ii) measuring the expression amount of said reporter protein encoded by the polynucleotide (a) in said cell and

(iii) assessing said chemical substance to have agonist activity over the transcription promoting ability of the ligand-responsive transcription control factor when the value of

expression amount of said reporter protein as measured in step (i) is larger than a value of expression amount of said reporter protein as measured in said cell cultured in the absence of said chemical substance;

wherein said ligand-responsive transcription control factor is one selected from among an aryl hydrocarbon receptor, estrogen receptor, androgen receptor, ~~or~~ and thyroid hormone receptor, and expressed in said cell.

12. (Currently Amended) A method for evaluating a chemical substance to have antagonist activity over the transcription promoting ability of a ligand-responsive transcription control factor, said method comprising:

(i) culturing an animal cell according to any one of claims 1, 4 and 6 to 9 in the presence of the chemical substance and a ligand of said ligand-responsive transcription control factor;

(ii) measuring the expression amount of reporter protein encoded by the polynucleotide (a) in said cell and

(iii) assessing said chemical substance to have antagonist activity over the transcription promoting ability of the ligand-responsive transcription control factor when the value of expression amount of said reporter protein measured in step (ii) is smaller than a value of expression amount of said reporter protein as measured in said cell cultured in the presence of said ligand and the absence of said chemical substance;

wherein said ligand-responsive transcription control factor is one selected from among an aryl hydrocarbon receptor, estrogen receptor, androgen receptor ~~or~~ and thyroid hormone receptor, and expressed in said cell.

13. (Previously Presented) A measuring kit comprising an animal cell according to any one of claims 1, 4 and 6 to 9.

14. (Currently Amended) A method for obtaining an animal cell for measuring the ability to control the activity of a ligand-responsive transcription control factor, said method comprising:

(i) introducing into an animal cell, a DNA comprising in a molecule both of the following polynucleotides (a) and (b):

(a) a polynucleotide comprising a reporter protein coding region connected functionally downstream from a transcription control region, wherein said transcription control region

(a-1) substantially consists of a recognition sequence of said ligand-responsive transcription control factor and a minimum promoter comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 5 which can function in said cell, and

(a-2) contains no functional elements relating to transcription control in said cell other than the recognition sequence and the minimum promoter; and

(b) a polynucleotide comprising a selective marker protein coding region connected functionally downstream of a promoter which can function in said cell, wherein said selective marker protein is a protein which can provide the cell with a resistance against chemicals suppressing or disturbing proliferation of the cell,

wherein said ligand-responsive transcription control factor is one selected from among an aryl hydrocarbon receptor, estrogen receptor, androgen receptor ~~or~~ and thyroid hormone receptor, and wherein said animal cell is

an animal cell into which a DNA comprising a polynucleotide that encodes the ligand-responsive transcription control factor and that is connected functionally downstream of a promoter is introduced before, after or during the same time of the step (i) or an animal cell that naturally has an ability to express the ligand-responsive transcription control factor; and

(ii) recovering from the transformed cell obtained from step (i), a transformed cell having both of the introduced DNA stably maintained therein.

15. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 14, wherein said cell is an animal cell into which a DNA comprising a polynucleotide that encodes the ligand-responsive transcription control factor and that is connected functionally downstream of a promoter is introduced before, after or during the same time of the step (i).

16. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 15, wherein the DNA comprising a polynucleotide that encodes the ligand-responsive transcription control factor,

comprises in a molecule, a polynucleotide comprising a selective marker protein coding region connected functionally downstream of a promoter which can function in said cell and which confers a phenotype different from that of the polynucleotide (b).

17-30. (Cancelled).

31. (Currently Amended) The cell according to any one of claims 1, 4 and 6 to 9, wherein said cell is prepared by introducing said DNA into a host cell selected from among NIH 3T3 cell, MCF7 cell ~~or~~ and HeLa cell.